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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

## (Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.  
10655.9400Total Pages in this Submission  
3

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jc525  
09/09/00

53/50

03/29/00

**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE HANDLING OF A DISPUTE**

and invented by:

**JUDITH CONTINELLI, ET AL.**If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information: Continuation    Divisional    Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

 Continuation    Divisional    Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

 Continuation    Divisional    Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1.  Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
  
2.  Specification having 44 pages and including the following:
  - a.  Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b.  Cross References to Related Applications (*if applicable*)
  - c.  Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (*if applicable*)
  - d.  Reference to Microfiche Appendix (*if applicable*)
  - e.  Background of the Invention
  - f.  Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g.  Brief Description of the Drawings (*if drawings filed*)
  - h.  Detailed Description
  - i.  Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j.  Abstract of the Disclosure

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3

**Application Elements (Continued)**

3.  Drawing(s) (*when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113*)
  - a.  Formal Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.  Informal Number of Sheets 12
4.  Oath or Declaration
  - a.  Newly executed (*original or copy*)  Unexecuted
  - b.  Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (*for continuation/divisional application only*)
  - c.  With Power of Attorney  Without Power of Attorney
  - d.  **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5.  Incorporation By Reference (*usable if Box 4b is checked*)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6.  Computer Program in Microfiche (*Appendix*)
7.  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (*if applicable, all must be included*)
  - a.  Paper Copy
  - b.  Computer Readable Copy (*identical to computer copy*)
  - c.  Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

**Accompanying Application Parts**

8.  Assignment Papers (*cover sheet & document(s)*)
9.  37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (*when there is an assignee*)
10.  English Translation Document (*if applicable*)
11.  Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449  Copies of IDS Citations
12.  Preliminary Amendment
13.  Acknowledgment postcard
14.  Certificate of Mailing  
 First Class  Express Mail (*Specify Label No.*): EL 426613783US

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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

15.  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

16.  Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	37	- 20 =	17	x \$18.00	\$306.00
Indep. Claims	5	- 3 =	2	x \$78.00	\$156.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
					<b>BASIC FEE</b> \$690.00
<b>OTHER FEE (specify purpose)</b> _____					\$0.00
					<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b> \$1,152.00

A check in the amount of \$1,152.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

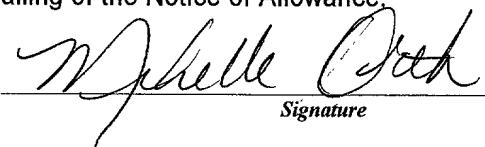
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-2814 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Credit any overpayment.

Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.

Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

  
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Dated: March 29, 2000

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03-30-00 A

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)</b>			
<b>Applicant(s): JUDITH CONTINELLI, ET AL.</b>		Docket No. <b>10655.9400</b>	
 <b>Serial No.</b> <b>TBA</b>	<b>Filing Date</b> <b>March 29, 2000</b>	<b>Examiner</b> <b>TBA</b>	<b>Group Art Unit</b> <b>TBA</b>
<b>Invention: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE HANDLING OF A DISPUTE</b>			
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>Patent Application and accompanying paperwork</u>  <small>(Identify type of correspondence)</small></p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under  37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>20231-0001 on <u>March 29, 2000</u>  <small>(Date)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <u>Michelle Orth</u>  <small>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small>    <small>(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small>  <u>EL426613783US</u>  <small>("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)</small> </p>			
<p><b>Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</b></p>			

## APPLICATION FOR PATENT

**Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE HANDLING OF A DISPUTE**

**Inventors:** Judith Continelli

5 Sandy Hazeltine

**Field of Invention**

The present invention relates generally to a system and method for handling disputes and, more particularly, to a real-time dispute processing system and method for resolving transactional credit disputes.

10 **Background of the Invention**

With increasing popularity, consumers worldwide are purchasing goods and services on credit. For many purchasers, the most convenient form of payment is a plastic card with a magnetic stripe, an embossed account number 15 and/or a smart chip called a credit card (hereafter "card" or "cards").

Cards may be used at service establishments (S/Es) (e.g., automated teller machines (ATM), point of sale (POS), and instances when no card is required during the transaction such as purchases over the Internet) that have entered into agreements with an Acquirer for the S/E to accept cards from 20 cardmembers to charge purchases of goods and services or for cash access. An Acquirer may be, for example, a nonfinancial or financial entity that specializes in the marketing, installation and support of POS card acceptance at S/Es. Acquirers generally negotiate a contract with the S/E to accept a brand of cards (e.g., AMERICAN EXPRESS®, VISA®, MasterCard®, DISCOVER CARD®).

Card Issuers are typically banks and other financial organizations (e.g., Bank of America®, Citibank®, MBNA America®, Chase Manhattan Bank®) operating under the regulations of a card issuing association or entity. The cardmember enters into an agreement and establishes a card account with the 5 Issuer. The Issuer's name generally appears on the card and cardmember's payments are typically sent to that Issuer.

Occasionally cardmembers may receive unsatisfactory goods or services from the S/E, be involved with a dispute over price with the S/E, or the S/E may have failed to comply with the regulations and/or terms of its card acceptance 10 agreement with the Acquirer. Typically the cardmember then notifies the Issuer about the dispute with the S/E, which prompts the Issuer to begin a dispute resolution process with the Acquirer on behalf of the cardmember.

In order to substantiate the dispute claim of the cardmember, the Issuer may first make a "retrieval request" to the Acquirer. The receipt for a 15 cardmember's purchase or credit transaction containing the details of any transaction carried out at the S/E is called the record of charge (ROC). A retrieval request may include a request for either an original ROC, a legible reproduction of the ROC, or any other transactional documentation from the Acquirer. The documentation supplied by the Acquirer in reply to a retrieval 20 request is called "fulfillment."

A typical "chargeback" is a reversal of a credit transaction which is "charged-back" to the Acquirer from the Issuer. The Acquirer may refute the chargeback and process a "second presentment" to the Issuer with additional

documentation. A "final chargeback" by the Issuer to the Acquirer occurs if the Issuer refutes the "second presentment" by providing additional documentation.

The aforementioned dispute handling process between Issuers and Acquirers is largely a manual documentation gathering process. Each step,

5 beginning with the retrieval request, requires copying, mailing or faxing documentation. Communication between the Issuer and Acquirer is on-going until the dispute is settled. The entire manual process may consume valuable employee time and resources. Further, while the dispute is being settled, the charge remains pending on either the cardmembers account or on unreconciled

10 billings.

Accordingly, there exists a need for a credit dispute system and method that increases the efficiency of the process. More particularly, there is a need for a system and method of processing a credit dispute that allows an initiator (such as an Issuer) to begin a dispute process by, for example, initiating a retrieval

15 request to a responder (such as an Acquirer), then allowing the responder to fulfill the request in a real-time processing environment.

### **Summary of the Invention**

The present invention overcomes the problems outlined above and provides an improved system and method for facilitating, processing and

20 retrieving documentation for the handling of a credit dispute between an initiator and a responder. In particular, the present invention provides a real-time dispute processing system that uses the speed and efficiency of the Internet, or similar communication system, to facilitate the handling of credit disputes.

In an exemplary embodiment, the system includes one or more access terminals having display and input capabilities. Each terminal is suitably linked to a communication channel for fast Internet access. A web site for displaying a plurality of dispute resolution forms is stored in a central server having a computer program stored thereon. Parties in dispute may access the web site via an Internet channel. Dispute forms may be viewed on the terminal display and completed by any suitable terminal input means. A document scanning device may be coupled to the terminal to provide image scanning of supporting documents to associate with the form.

10 An exemplary method of the present invention includes at least one access terminal for accessing an Internet web site, and a server which stores the web site having a plurality of dispute handling forms stored thereon. The user can access the web site, choose the appropriate dispute form and respond to all requested fields on the form. Upon completion, the user can send the form to the 15 server for processing and subsequent transmission to a second user.

In an exemplary embodiment, the method further includes scanning supporting documents at a document scanning device. The user may transmit the scanned documents along with the form to the server for subsequent transmission to a second user. Thus, parties can route dispute resolution forms 20 via the Internet and eliminate the time consuming efforts of mailing or faxing forms and documentation.

In yet another embodiment, a computer-based method for routing dispute forms via the Internet is implemented. A central site includes programming for

prompting an end-user site for a User ID and password, and for displaying a set of dispute handling forms in response to the entered ID. At the end-user site, further programming is coded for collecting data on the forms and transmitting the form to the central site. The central site suitably receives the form and further

5 includes programming for indexing the form based upon the collected data. The form is transmitted to a second end-user site and made available for viewing. A fast and efficient automated routing system may be realized by indexing forms based upon timeframes or any other suitable indexing method, to effectively reduce the dispute settling time.

10 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:

15 Figure 1 illustrates a real-time dispute processing system in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 a computer program flow chart illustrating a preferred embodiment for accessing the system of the present invention;

20 Figure 3 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a "Retrieval Request" embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a "Fulfillment" embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a "First Chargeback" embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a “Second Presentment” embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a “Final Chargeback” embodiment of the present invention;

5 Figure 8 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a new user embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 9 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a modify user embodiment of the present invention;

10 Figure 10 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a delete user embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 11 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating a “Documents Only” embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 12 is a continuation of Figure 2 illustrating another “Documents Only” embodiment of the present invention.

15 **Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments**

The present invention relates to an improved system and method for facilitating the handling of credit disputes using a real-time dispute processing system. Although the system may be suitable for a variety of dispute processing 20 applications, (e.g., customer billing disputes, disputes requiring the exchange of information between customers and vendors or creditors) the present invention is conveniently described with reference to the credit disputes between Issuers and Acquirers.

In an exemplary embodiment, the Internet-based processing system of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 1. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the system may also operate on an intranet, extranet, or a device to use on a communication system, such as a personal digital assistant (PDA), smart phone, 5 or any other suitable communication device. A central server 100 having a web site stored thereon is linked to an Internet communication channel 110. Central server 100 maintains an operating computer program for the web site.

Exemplary internet or intranet (depending on the user access channel) capable terminals 130 and 140 are provided for end-users to access the web 10 site via communication channel 110. Each terminal 130 and 140 is preferably equipped with a display 170 and an input means. As an example, display 170 may be a terminal screen or any other suitable display. Data is entered by the user with any known data input means. As shown, terminals 130 and 140 are equipped with a point and click input means (a "mouse") 150 and a keyboard 15 160. Input means 150 and 160 are merely an example and not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Terminals 130 and 140 are preferably personal computers including but not limited to, a PENTIUM® PC, and include a minimum of 32 MB RAM, a 28.8 baud rate modem or company 20 LAN (local area network) access, and 400 MB of available disk space on a local hard drive or network. Preferably, terminals 130 and 140 include a compression software such as WINZIP® 7.0 or greater, an operating program such as WINDOWS 95® or WINDOWS NT®, and an application such as WINDOWS

EXPLORER® 4.0 with update version Service Pack 1 or greater, or NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR® version 4.07 or greater.

Additionally, the system may include a document scanning device 180.

As shown in Figure 1, terminal 140 is coupled to a scanning device 180. Terminal

- 5 130 can also be coupled to a similar scanning device. Scanning device 180 preferably has a resolution of at least 600 dpi. Supporting documentation is suitably transformed into computer readable format by scanning device 180. For example, an end-user operating scanning device 180 can scan receipts, rental agreements, hotel folios and the like, and then store the scanned data on the
- 10 10 hard drive of terminal 140. Such supporting documentation can then be transmitted to server 100.

An exemplary method of the present invention may be executed in a network computer system with a computer program that controls the operation of server 100. The computer program may be suitably stored on server 100 by

- 15 methods common to one skilled in the art, such as, for example, in the read-only-memory (ROM) or the hard drive memory of server 100. An exemplary network computer system of the present invention is illustrated as Figure 1.

## USER ACCESS

Figure 2 summarizes the steps performed by the computer program while executing one exemplary method of the present invention. These steps are merely illustrative and can be modified or adapted. Users, which may include

- 5    Issuers, Acquirers, administrative and financial personnel, complete a User ID request and receive a User ID and password. User IDs and passwords are unique to specific users and are stored on the server database. A first end-user, for example an Issuer, accesses the web site (step 200) by any known Internet browser means such as MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER® or NETSCAPE
- 10   NAVIGATOR®.

After accessing the web site, the program stored on server 100 is configured to prompt the end-user (e.g., terminals 130 and 140) for a User ID and password (step 210). Once the Issuer, or any user, has been authenticated by matching the entered User ID and password with a database located on the server (step 215), the Issuer will be presented with only those functions the Issuer is authorized to use (e.g., Issuers may be presented with only Issuer functions and Acquirers may be presented with only Acquirer functions). If the User ID and password do not correspond to a known (stored) User ID and password, the program displays a "Logon Error" message (220) and returns to

- 20   the previous screen (step 210).

The program is configured to respond to the entry of the User ID and password with a set of queries to determine what type of user has been verified

(e.g., Issuer, Acquirer, administration, financial). If the entered User ID and password correspond to an Issuer (step 225), the program causes the “home page” to display (step 227). In general, “home page” is a term used in the industry to indicate a main or central screen from which the user can select options. One skilled in the art will recognize that “home page” options may be included throughout a routine or sub-routine to allow the user to return to the main or central screen at any time and start over with another routine. From the home page, the Issuer chooses the option to begin a dispute handling process and the program causes the display “Issuer Form Selection” (step 230).

10 If the entered User ID and password do not correspond to an Issuer, the program is configured to query if the entered data is for an Acquirer (step 240). In a similar manner as described for the Issuer, if the user is an Acquirer, the home page is displayed (step 242) and the program causes the display “Acquirer Form Selection” (step 244). Because the User ID and password are unique for 15 each type of exemplary user (Issuer, Acquirer, administration, financial), the program is configured to determine what type of user is accessing and to continue if the entered data is for neither an Issuer or an Acquirer.

Administrative personnel (AP) perform such functions as issuing User IDs and passwords or any other administrative function which may be needed to 20 provide “system service” to other users (e.g., add, delete, modify User IDs). If the entered User ID and password correspond to AP (step 250), the home page screen is displayed (step 252). It is desirable to give AP access rights to both Issuer, Acquirer and administrative functions and/or forms. Often, AP initiate a

dispute or respond to a dispute instead of the Issuer or Acquirer. In other words,

AP can access the forms available to an Issuer or an Acquirer and complete the forms on behalf of and at the direction of the Issuer or Acquirer. AP are given an option (step 254) from the home page screen to choose "Dispute Handling,"

- 5 which gives AP the option of either Issuer forms or Acquirer forms, or to choose "Admin." The "Admin" option causes the program to display the "Administration" screen which contains a list of all active and inactive users that have been assigned a User ID and password (step 256). The AP can choose a function from the "Administration" screen and the option is monitored by the program
- 10 (step 258).

In the exemplary embodiment as described above, if the entered User ID and password does not correspond to any of the above types of users, the user is financial personnel (FP) (step 260). (Step 215 verifies that the User ID and password corresponds to a single type of user; only one user type is remaining).

- 15 The FP perform settlement and funds exchange between the other users, namely Issuers and Acquirers. The program causes the home page to display (step 262). FP may be given limited access to reporting functions and the like, or similar functions which enable FP to settle funds. For this reason, FP may be given a single option to choose from off the home page. In one exemplary
- 20 embodiment, the option is reporting and the program causes the display "Reports" (step 264).

Upon display of the "Form Selection" screen for either the Issuer or the Acquirer, the program monitors the response of the user for one of the options

presented on the display (step 235) (step 246). In an exemplary embodiment, the program causes a display which allows the user to choose from dispute handling forms.

In practice, the Issuer is typically notified by a cardmember that there is an

5 unresolved dispute with the S/E, for example, the cardmember may have received unsatisfactory goods or services or there may be a discrepancy in the price paid. The Issuer then begins the dispute handling process with the Acquirer on behalf of the cardmember. Once the Issuer is authenticated by the program, and the "Issuer Form Selection" menu is displayed, the Issuer may

10 begin the process by completing an on-line retrieval request form.

#### RETRIEVAL REQUEST

Referring to Figure 3, upon selection of "Retrieval Request," the program causes the display "Retrieval Request" (step 300). Throughout the form, the program prompts the Issuer to enter data with respect to the unresolved dispute.

15 The Issuer is asked to provide information which will help the Acquirer to recognize the disputed matter and to promote a fast response time. The requested data can vary according to the dispute application, however, in the sake of brevity, the present invention is described with respect to one exemplary application for Issuers and Acquirers. The Issuer is asked to provide the S/E

20 number, cardmember number and TID (transaction identifier which consists of an unique alphanumeric sequence) (step 305). The program identifies whether a TID was entered by the Issuer (step 310) and if not, the program will

automatically assign the TID from a stored algorithm (step 315). The Issuer is next presented with an option which is monitored by the program (step 325). At this point, the Issuer may choose "cancel," which deletes the entries, cancels the current process (step 320) and returns the application to the previous screen 5 (step 230).

Should the Issuer choose "continue", the program begins processing the entered data which includes, but not limited to, deriving both the BIN (bank identification number) from the entered cardmember number and the AIN (acquirer identification number) by matching the S/E number with a table stored 10 on the server database (step 330). The program causes a display of "Retrieval Request Form" (step 332) and displays the previously entered data (step 335). The Issuer is asked to provide additional information about the card and S/E which can include, card expiration date, S/E's name, city and country, and the merchant category code (step 340). The merchant category code classifies the 15 type of business product or service associated with the transaction. In a preferred embodiment, the program may suitably offer a menu of merchant category codes to be selected by the Issuer.

To facilitate data entry, a plurality of menu options, such as, for example, a "drop-down menu," are stored on the server. The Issuer can choose to have the 20 menu options displayed by "clicking" the appropriate on-screen button. For instance, the Issuer can choose from a "drop-down menu" containing a list of retrieval reason codes (step 345). The drop-down menu offers the Issuer with a list of pre-written options from which the Issuer can simply "click-on" one of the

options. This saves the Issuer entry time and further promotes fast and uniform data entry. Examples of retrieval reason codes which may display, include “the cardmember does not recognize this transaction” or “the cardmember requests a copy of the transaction for his personal records.” Each retrieval reason code

5 may be suitably associated with process timeframes.

A similar drop-down menu prompts the user to choose from a list of chargeback reason codes (step 350). “Chargeback” is the term used in the industry to indicate a reversal of a credit transaction which is charged-back to the Acquirer. Chargebacks and chargeback codes may include “goods and services

10 not received,” “missing or invalid signature,” and “currency discrepancy.” The chargeback codes may be associated with process timeframes and indexed by the program (similar to the retrieval reason codes). Additionally, a drop-down menu option prompts the Issuer to choose from a list of supporting documentation codes (step 355). The Issuer may desire a copy of a receipt of

15 the cardmember’s purchase, or the credit transaction data containing the details of the transaction carried out at the S/E.

Next, the program prompts the Issuer for entry of the transaction date, the network processing date of the transaction (NPD) and the transaction monetary amount (step 360). The Issuer can choose from a drop-down menu containing a

20 list of currency codes (step 365). The currency code denotes the country of origin for the original transaction. The Issuer is also asked to enter the ARN (acquirer reference number) and any comments the Issuer may wish to include with the retrieval request form (step 370).

After the Issuer enters the appropriate data requested above, the program monitors the next option selected by the user (step 375). If the Issuer wants to cancel the current process, the Issuer chooses the "cancel" option and the application cancels the entries (step 380) and returns to the previous screen

5 (step 300). Once satisfied with the entries, the Issuer chooses the "send" option. The program then verifies that all requested fields are complete (step 385). If field items are missing and/or contain invalid data (e.g., numeric data where alpha data is required), the program causes an error message display (step 390). If all fields are complete, the program announces "Retrieval Request Completed

10 Successfully" (step 395) and transmits the completed form to the server for processing (step 396).

### INBOX

As detailed earlier, the displayed "Form Selection" screen depends upon the User ID and password which are entered. Each user may be presented with

15 only those functions which the user is authorized to use. From the "Form Selection" screen, users (e.g., Issuers and Acquirers) are also presented with an "Inbox" function. The inbox displays all the forms routed by the server to the user from other users wishing to initiate or respond to a dispute. For instance, the retrieval request detailed above may be routed by the server to the Acquirer's

20 inbox which corresponds to the AIN entered by the Issuer. The program displays the data entered by the Issuer which will help the Acquirer to identify the particular dispute. In particular, the program causes the display of the TID, NPD, number of supporting documents attached to the form, the Issuer in dispute who

completed the form and the type of form. The data in the inbox is made available for viewing and/or downloading by the Acquirer. Supporting documentation may be viewed by downloading from the application to the terminal's local hard drive or network (LAN). The Acquirer is not required to complete fields on the viewed 5 form, but is simply alerted to the request for documentation (e.g., receipt copies) from the party in dispute. The Acquirer may then return to the "Form Selection" screen and choose a form to complete in response to the inbox request.

### FULFILLMENT

Referring now to Figure 4, in response to the Issuer's retrieval request, 10 the Acquirer may choose the "Fulfillment" option from the "Acquirer Form Selection" screen display. In general, the fulfillment form is a means for the Acquirer to provide the requested information or documentation back to the Issuer. The program causes the display of "Fulfillment" (step 400) and prompts the Acquirer to input the TID (step 410). The Acquirer has the option to continue 15 or cancel the entry, which is monitored by the program (step 420). The Acquirer may choose the "cancel" option and the program will cancel the current process (step 425) and return the application to the previous screen (step 244).

Should the Acquirer choose "continue," the program will begin processing 20 the entered data and cause the display "Fulfillment Form" (step 430). To assist the Acquirer in completing the form, the program displays the data previously entered by the Issuer. The program retrieves data from the previous form (retrieval request) and automatically populates any displayed fields on the

fulfillment form which are identical to the data entered by the Issuer (e.g., cardmember number, S/E data, reason codes) (step 440). The program prompts the Acquirer to choose from a drop-down menu containing a list of fulfillment reason codes (step 445) which includes codes for “supporting documentation to follow” and “credit previously issued.” The program may also accept any comments from the Acquirer (step 450).

The program monitors the next option selected by the Acquirer (step 470). For example, the Acquirer can choose “cancel” and the application cancels the entries (step 475) and returns to the previous screen (step 400).

10        In response to the Issuer’s request, the Acquirer may need to supply supporting documentation. Referring back to Figure 1, terminal 140 is preferably coupled to a document scanning device 180. The end-user may operate scanning device 180 to transform any supporting documentation into computer readable format. Typically, the scanned image will be transformed into a JPEG  
15        (joint photographic experts group) image file or .jpg file and stored on the user’s local hard drive or network.

If the Acquirer has properly scanned documentation in support of the request, the Acquirer selects the “browse” option to review the stored image files. The program is suitably configured to launch access to a stored application such  
20        as, for example, WINDOWS EXPLORER® (step 460). If the Acquirer wishes to attach supporting scanned documentation, or any other type of documentation (e.g., word processing document) to the fulfillment form, the Acquirer selects the

desired files from the local hard drive or network and the application causes the selected files to attach to the form (step 465).

Once satisfied with the entries, the Acquirer chooses the "send" option.

The program verifies that all requested fields are complete (step 480) and if items 5 are missing and/or invalid, the program causes an error message display (step 485). If complete/valid, the program announces "Fulfillment Completed Successfully" (step 490) and transmits the completed form within the server for processing (step 495).

Similar to the Inbox description above, the completed fulfillment form is 10 routed back to the Issuer's access terminal for viewing and/or downloading. The program causes substantially the same display fields for the Issuer as for the Acquirer on the inbox screen. The Issuer may download and view any supporting documentation which the Acquirer has attached to the form.

### FIRST CHARGEBACK

15 Another option available to the Issuer from the "Issuer Form Selection" display (step 230), is to choose "First Chargeback." The chargeback form will alert the Acquirer and subsequent financial personnel that the Issuer is requesting that the funds liability be transferred or "charged back" to the Acquirer. Referring to Figure 5, once selected, the program causes a display of "First 20 Chargeback" (step 500). (Steps 505 – 532 are substantially similar to steps 305 – 335 of the retrieval request Figure 3.) The Issuer is asked for the S/E number, cardmember number and TID (step 505). The program identifies whether a TID

was entered (step 510) and automatically assigns the TID from a stored algorithm (step 515) if entry is missing. The program monitors the next option selected by the Issuer (step 525). The Issuer, as previously disclosed, can cancel the entries (step 520) and return the application to the previous screen 5 (step 230).

Should the Issuer choose "continue," the program begins processing the entered data such as, for example, deriving both the BIN and AIN (step 530) in substantially the same manner as previously disclosed. The program causes a display "First Chargeback Form" (step 531). To assist the Issuer in completing 10 the form, the program automatically retrieves from the previous forms (e.g., retrieval request, fulfillment) identical data and populates the identical field entries that were entered by the previous end-user (either the Acquirer or the Issuer) (step 532). The Issuer is asked to enter the card expiration date, ARN, the S/E's name, city and country, the category code and the transaction amount 15 (step 534). The program may suitably offer a drop-down menu containing a list of merchant category codes for the Issuer to choose from.

In the following steps, 536, 540, 544, 550 and 552, the program causes a display from a drop-down menu option for the Issuer to choose from. A drop-down menu button follows the monetary amounts the Issuer is requesting to 20 chargeback to the Acquirer (step 534) (step 538) (step 542). The menu displays a list of currency codes for the Issuer to "click on" for each amount entered (step 536) (step 540) (step 544). Based upon the chargeback amount entered (step 538), the program performs a series of mathematical calculations for internal

accounting purposes. These calculations are not displayed to the user. Another menu option prompts the Issuer to choose a transaction type (e.g., charge or credit) (step 550). The Issuer is also asked to provide a chargeback reason code from another drop-down menu (step 552). As previously disclosed, the 5 chargeback reason codes may be associated with process timeframes and indexed as such by the program.

The program prompts the Issuer to provide information with respect to the chargeback which will help the Acquirer to identify the transaction, such as, for example, monetary chargeback amounts (step 546), the transaction date (step 10 548), NPD presentment, a financial reference number and any comments the Issuer may wish to include with the first chargeback form (step 558).

Based upon the chargeback reason code entered by Issuer, the Issuer may be asked to enter an Issuer declaration and the name of the person submitting the declaration (step 558). An Issuer declaration is a certification by 15 the Issuer that any requisite conditions under the chargeback code has been met. Each code may have specific conditions which the Issuer must meet in order to properly use the code, for example, "that the card had been cancelled prior to the date of the chargeback," "provide the cardmember's cancellation confirmation number," or "provide the duplicate billing number." The program 20 may index the dispute by the chargeback code entered by the Issuer.

The program monitors the next option selected by the Issuer (step 568). If the Issuer cancels the current process, the program deletes the entries (step

570) and returns to the previous screen (step 500). As previously discussed, the Issuer may wish to attach supporting documentation to the first chargeback form. The Issuer selects the “browse” option, reviews the files stored on the local hard drive or network, then selects the desired file(s). If the “browse” option is 5 selected, the program is suitably configured to access an application, such as WINDOWS EXPLORER®, stored on the local hard drive or network (step 562). Upon selection of the desired file(s), the program causes the selected file(s) to attach to the form (step 564).

Once satisfied with the entries, the Issuer chooses the “send” option. The 10 program verifies that all requested fields are complete (step 572) and if items are missing, the program causes an error message display (step 574). If no error message is displayed, the program announces “First Chargeback Completed Successfully” (step 576) and transmits the completed form within the server for processing (step 578).

15 The program is configured to route the dispute-related data entered by the Issuer on the first chargeback form to the Acquirer in dispute. During processing, (step 578) information is extracted from the form which aids the program in determining where to route the form. The Acquirer is alerted to the presence of the routed form with a display on the Acquirer’s inbox screen.

20 SECOND PRESENTMENT

Typically, the Issuer completes the first chargeback form which is routed by the program on the server to the corresponding Acquirer. The Acquirer may

refute the chargeback and present the transaction back to the Issuer. To present back, the Acquirer selects a “second presentment” option from the “Acquirer Form Selection” display (step 244). By presenting back or second presentment, the Acquirer is requesting that the funds liability be transferred back to the Issuer.

5 Referring to Figure 6, the program causes a display of “Second Presentment” (step 600) and prompts the user to input the TID (step 610). The next option selected by the Acquirer is monitored (step 620). The Acquirer may wish to cancel the entries by choosing “cancel,” which causes the program to cancel the current process (step 630) and return the application to the previous screen (step

10 244).

Should the Acquirer choose “continue,” the program begins processing the entered data and causes a display “Second Presentment Form” (step 640). The program retrieves data from a previous form and automatically populates the fields identical to the data entered by the Issuer on the first chargeback form

15 (step 650). The program prompts the Acquirer to “click” a drop-down menu and select from a list of second presentment reason codes (step 655). The second presentment dollar amounts are displayed but may be changed by the Acquirer if they are incorrect or a different amount is desired (step 660). Based upon the second presentment (SE) dollar amount, the program performs a series of

20 calculations for internal accounting purposes. The Acquirer then inputs the financial reference number and any comments the Acquirer may wish to include with the second presentment form (step 668).

The program monitors the Acquirer's next selection (step 680). (Steps 670 – 696 are substantially similar to steps 460 – 495 of the fulfillment form Figure 4.) As previously disclosed, the Acquirer can "cancel," "browse" or "send" the form for processing. If the "cancel" option is chosen, the program cancels the entries 5 (step 685) and returns to the previous screen (step 600). After the "send" option is chosen and all fields are complete, the program announces "Second Presentment Completed Successfully" (step 694) and transmits the completed form within the server for processing (step 696).

### FINAL CHARGEBACK

10 Upon receipt and review of the second presentment form (as disclosed previously, the Issuer is notified of the form through the "inbox" function), the Issuer may decide to complete a "final chargeback" which is chosen from the "Issuer Form Selection" display (step 230). With reference to Figure 7, the program causes the display of "Final Chargeback" (step 700) and prompts the 15 user to input the TID (step 705). The next option selected by the Issuer is monitored (step 710). The Issuer can choose "cancel" or "continue" in a similar manner as previously disclosed (refer to first chargeback Figure 5).

The "continue" option begins the processing of the entered data and causes a display of "Final Chargeback Form" (step 720). The application 20 retrieves and automatically populates the fields identical to the data entered by the Issuer on the first chargeback form or by the Acquirer on the second presentment form (step 730) (step 740). The program performs mathematical

calculations on the final chargeback amount (step 740) for internal accounting purposes. The program prompts the Issuer to choose from a list of final chargeback reason codes from a drop-down menu (step 735). The final chargeback reason codes may be the same or substantially similar to the first 5 chargeback reason codes previously discussed. The program prompts the Issuer to input the financial reference number and any comments the Issuer may wish to include with the final chargeback form (step 765).

The program monitors the Issuer's next selection (step 785). (Steps 785 – 798 are substantially similar to steps 568 – 578 of the first chargeback form 10 Figure 5.) As previously disclosed, the Issuer can "cancel," "browse" or "send" the form for processing. If the "cancel" option is chosen, the application cancels the entries (step 790) and returns to the previous screen (step 700). After the "send" option is chosen and all fields are complete (step 792), the program announces "Final Chargeback Completed Successfully" (step 796) and transmits 15 the completed form within the server for processing (step 798).

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

As previously disclosed, the present invention is conveniently described with reference to a transactional dispute between an Issuer and an Acquirer, however, one skilled in the art will recognize that the scope of the present 20 invention can include other end-users, such as, for example, administrative and financial personnel.

Typically, Issuers and Acquirers request a User ID from an administrative operations center or similar centralized management. In an effort to maintain uniformity and control, generally only administrative personnel review, approve and issue the User ID and password. Each User ID and password are unique to

5 each specific user and based upon the User ID and password, the program is configured to display only those forms or functions available to the user (e.g., Issuers may be presented with only Issuer forms and Acquirers may be presented with only Acquirer forms).

In one exemplary embodiment, administrative personnel (AP) access the

10 program stored on the server to perform one of two functions, dispute handling or administrative. Unlike the other types of users, the AP may be able to access the forms and functions of other users. The dispute handling option (Figure 2) allows the AP to choose from either the Issuer or Acquirer forms and complete a form on behalf and at the direction of a specific Issuer or Acquirer, thereby allowing

15 the AP to initiate or respond to a credit dispute.

A second option which may be available to the AP includes performing User ID functions such as adding, deleting or modifying a User ID or access. Referring to Figure 8, once the AP receives a request for a User ID and password, the AP can add the user, by choosing the "Add" option from the

20 "Administration" screen. The program causes the new user screen to display (step 800) and prompts for information with respect to the new user. For instance, the AP is asked to provide the login name (step 805), user name (step 810), email address (step 815), password (step 820) and expiration date of the

User ID (to be determined by AP) (step 825). Further information such as the user class and type (e.g., Issuer, Acquirer, AP, FP) (step 830)(step 835), and the BIN, AIN or neither (step 840) is also provided. The BIN may be needed if the new user is an Issuer, the AIN may be needed for an Acquirer, and neither

5 number may be provided if the new user is an AP or a FP.

The program monitors the next option selected by AP (step 845). For example, the AP can choose “cancel” and the application cancels the entries (step 850) and returns to the “Administration” screen (step 256). The AP can “submit” the form, at which point the program verifies that all requested fields are

10 complete (step 855) and if items are missing, the program causes an error message display (step 860). If complete, the program closes the current screen and transmits the information within the server for processing, which may include storage on the server database (step 865). The program redisplays the “Administration” screen (step 870) and prompts the AP to “continue” which allows

15 the AP to add another user (step 805) or “logout” which ends the function.

With reference to Figure 9, the AP can modify a user that already has a User ID and password. It may be necessary to change a user’s type (e.g., from Issuer to Acquirer) or modify the User ID and password in any similar manner. Upon selection of “Admin,” the program causes the “Administration” screen to

20 display along with a list of all active and inactive users that have been assigned a User ID and password. The user list is retrieved from the database located on the server. The AP identifies a user from the list as the user to modify and “highlights” the user. Next, the AP chooses “Modify” from the “Administration”

screen which causes the program to display the modify user screen (step 900).

The AP is asked to provide information about the highlighted user (steps 905 – 940 are substantially similar to steps 805 – 840) and the AP can change the current status or data for the user at this time. The remaining program steps, 945 – 970, are substantially similar to steps 845 - 870 disclosed above for adding a new user. The modified user data can suitably be stored on the server database.

Finally, as a third option in an exemplary embodiment, the AP may delete a user as illustrated in Figure 10. From the “Administration” screen, the AP highlights the user to delete from the displayed list, then chooses “delete.” The 10 program prompts the AP for a confirmation of user deletion (step 1000), in other words, the program requests that the AP choose “cancel” (step 1010) (to cancel the entry and start over) or “ok” to delete the user from the list. Once deleted, the User ID may no longer be granted access to the web site located on the server, however, the user may remain on the list as an inactive user. The program 15 redisplays the “Administration” screen (step 1020) which gives the AP the opportunity to “continue” and delete another user (step 1000) or “logout” and end the function.

In a preferred embodiment, from the “Administration” screen, the AP can write a text message to appear on the home page of other types of users 20 including other AP. Typically, a message may include daily announcements, system failures or the like.

## FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Financial personnel (FP) perform settlement and funds exchange between the Issuers and Acquirers. In practice, an Issuer receives a complaint from a cardmember regarding a transaction which typically involves a monetary amount.

- 5      The Issuer disputes the amount with the Acquirer by completing one or more on-line forms as previously disclosed. In one embodiment each form which can transfer liability from an Issuer to an Acquirer (e.g., first and final chargeback) or vice versa (e.g., second presentment) can be logged on a reporting system. The FP accesses the web site stored on the server and views the reports on a timely
- 10     basis to reconcile or redistribute funds accordingly.

In a preferred embodiment, the FP accesses the web site stored on the server and chooses "Reports" option from the home page (Figure 2). There may be any number of reports available for the FP to view, but in the sake of brevity,

only three will discussed herein. One report may list all the first and final chargeback forms completed for the day. The FP can view or download the report and transfer the liability from the Issuer listed to the Acquirer listed on the form. A second report may list all the second presentments for the day. Again, the FP can view the second presentment report and transfer the liability from the Acquirer listed to the Issuer listed on the form.

- 20     A third report may list all the transactions that were sent to wrong Acquirer's inbox for the day. On occasion, a form completed by an Issuer may be misrouted by the server, or a wrong AIN may be entered by the Issuer,

resulting in the form being sent to the wrong Acquirer. The Acquirer can reject the form request from the Issuer and transmit the original form back to the web site/server and subsequent AP for rerouting. The FP may have already transferred liability to the Acquirer prior to the Acquirer or anyone else realizing 5 the misrouting error. In this case, the FP transfers the liability back to the original Issuer once the report, indicating the misrouting has been generated.

#### DOCUMENTS ONLY

Users, (e.g., Issuers and Acquirers) may complete or begin a dispute handling process using another method not disclosed by the present invention, 10 such as for example, on an internal network or infrastructure. However, many internal networks or infrastructures have inadequate methods for transfer of supporting documentation or alternatively, no file transfer capabilities at all. This presents a problem for the Issuers and Acquirers using an infrastructure who desire to transmit documentation in support of a pending dispute 15 To overcome the file transfer problem associated with initiating or responding to a dispute on an internal network or infrastructure, Issuers and Acquirers can transmit documentation in support of a dispute process originating on an infrastructure with the speed and efficiency of the Internet. The present invention, as previously disclosed, provides users, such as Issuers and 20 Acquirers, a system and method for real-time transfer of supporting documentation with respect to a transactional credit dispute.

Users (Issuers and Acquirers) may choose a "Documents Only" form from the "Form Selection" display. The "documents only" form is a supporting documentation exchange between users in dispute. In one embodiment, documentation such as ROC, hotel folio, and any additional duplicate transaction record which may facilitate the dispute process can be scanned, stored and retrieved in a similar manner as previously disclosed (see the discussion under **FULFILLMENT**). Scanned documentation may then be exchanged between the Issuer and the Acquirer using the "documents only" form.

Whether the user, for example an Issuer, completes a "documents only" form or one of the previously disclosed forms (e.g., first and final chargeback) all required information will be supplied by either the Issuer on the "documents only" form or automatically retrieved by the program from a previous entry by the Issuer. For example, the Issuer may begin the dispute process over an internal infrastructure, which is not embodied by the present invention. The Issuer may be asked to provide similar information as disclosed in the "retrieval request," "first chargeback" and "final chargeback" forms (except for the "browse" option to attach supporting documentation) which is then stored on the infrastructure's database. The Issuer can then use the previously disclosed system and method to transmit any supporting documentation. The server, as previously disclosed, having a database, is configured to link to the infrastructure's database and search the infrastructure's database to find the Issuer's previous entry which initialized the dispute in question. The server then retrieves the previously entered data for the dispute.

With reference to Figure 11, the “documents only” form and function will become clearer. After the Issuer has initiated a dispute on the infrastructure, or similar internal network, the Issuer may want to include supporting documentation. The Issuer can access the disclosed web site and choose

5 “Documents Only” from the “Issuer Form Selection” display (step 230) (See, Figure 2). Once selected, the program causes the display “Documents Only” (step 1100) and the Issuer is asked to provide the TID and transaction type, which may include first or final chargeback (step 1105). The program monitors the “continue” and “cancel” options (step 1110). If the Issuers wants to cancel

10 the entries (step 1115) and start over or quit the program, the “cancel” option is chosen and the program returns to the previous screen (step 230).

If the Issuer chooses “continue,” the program begins processing the entered data and causes the display “Documents Only Form” (step 1120). The processing step includes, but is not limited to, matching the entered TID with a

15 previously entered TID stored on the server 100 database corresponding to the initial entry made by the Issuer. To assist the Issuer in completing the “documents only” form, the program displays information retrieved from the infrastructure’s database pertaining to the dispute in question (step 1125)).

Based upon the chargeback reason code entered by the Issuer on

20 infrastructure, the Issuer may be asked to enter an Issuer declaration and the name of the person submitting the declaration (step 1130) in a substantially similar manner as previously disclosed (see step 558). The program may index the dispute by the chargeback reason code entered by the Issuer.

The program monitors the next option selected by the Issuer (step 1135).

If the Issuer "cancels" the current process (step 1140), the program deletes the entries and returns to the previous screen (step 1100). As discussed, the Issuer chooses the "documents only" to supplement a previously entered transaction

5 on, for example, an infrastructure. The Issuer chooses the "browse" option causing the program to access an application, such as WINDOWS EXPLORER®, stored on the Issuer's local hard drive or network (step 1145).

The Issuer views the stored files (see the discussion under FULFILLMENT) and selects the desired file(s) to attach (step 1150). Once satisfied with the entries

10 on the form, the Issuer chooses the "send" option. The program announces "Documents Only Completed Successfully" (step 1155) and transmits the completed form within the server for processing (step 1160).

The program is configured to route the dispute-related documentation selected by the Issuer and attached by the program to the Acquirer. The

15 Acquirer is alerted to the presence of the routed form with a display on the Acquirer's inbox screen.

For substantially the same reasons discussed for the Issuer, the Acquirer may wish to transmit supporting documentation outside the infrastructure using

the system and methods of the present invention. Referring to Figures 2 and 12,

20 the Acquirer selects the "Documents Only" form from the "Acquirer Form Selection" display (step 244) causing the program to display "Documents Only"

(step 1200). The Acquirer is asked to enter the TID and transaction type (e.g.,

fulfillment and second presentment) (step 1205).

The program monitors the "continue" and "cancel" options (step 1210). If the Acquirer wants to cancel the entries (step 1215) and start over or quit the program, the "cancel" option is chosen and the program returns to the previous screen (step 244). If the Acquirer chooses "continue," the program begins

5 processing the entered data and causes the display "Documents Only Form" (step 1220). To assist the Acquirer in completing the "documents only" form, the program displays information retrieved from the server 100 database, as previously disclosed, pertaining to the dispute in question (step 1225).

The Acquirer may include any comments (step 1230) before selecting the

10 next option (step 1235). The Acquirer can "cancel" the entries (step 1240), "browse" the stored files (steps 1245 and 1250 are substantially similar to steps 1145 and 1150), or "send" the form. If "send" is chosen, the program announces "Documents Only Completed Successfully" (step 1255) and transmits the form to the server for processing (step 1260). The server routes the form to the Issuer in

15 dispute and alerts the Issuer to the presence of the form.

The on-line system and method described and illustrated provides an automated and real-time environment for processing a dispute. In addition, the code-based indexing system provides an efficient process for prioritizing disputes and effectively reducing the overall dispute settling time.

20 The present invention is described herein in terms of functional block components and various processing steps. It should be appreciated that such functional blocks may be realized by any number of hardware components

configured to perform the specified functions. For example, the present invention may employ various integrated circuit components, e.g., memory elements, digital signal processing elements, logic elements, look-up tables, and the like, which may carry out a variety of functions under the control of one or more 5 microprocessors or other control devices. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention may be practiced in conjunction with any number of data transmission protocols and that the system described herein is merely an exemplary application for the invention.

It should be appreciated that the particular implementations shown and 10 described herein are illustrative of the invention and its best mode and are not intended to otherwise limit the scope of the present invention in any way. Indeed, for the sake of brevity, conventional techniques for signal processing, data transmission, signaling, and network control, and other functional aspects of the systems (and components of the individual operating components of the 15 systems) may not be described in detail herein. Furthermore, the connecting lines shown in the various figures contained herein are intended to represent exemplary functional relationships and/or physical couplings between the various elements. It should be noted that many alternative or additional functional relationships or physical connections may be present in a practical 20 communication system.

The present invention has been described above with reference to preferred embodiments. However, those skilled in the art having read this disclosure will recognize that changes and modifications may be made to the

preferred embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, similar forms may be added without departing from the spirit of the present invention. These and other changes or modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention, as expressed  
5 in the following claims.

### Abstract

A system and method is disclosed for handling a credit dispute via an Internet connection. The system includes one or more terminals linked to a communication channel for fast Internet access, and a server having an associated web site for displaying a plurality of dispute handling forms. A party in dispute may access the web site from a terminal, choose an appropriate dispute handling form, provide data in the requested fields on the form, and transmit the form over the Internet connection to the server for processing. The server accepts a User ID and password from a user, retrieves and displays a set of dispute handling forms, receives input entered on the forms, routes the forms to a second user in dispute, and makes the forms available for viewing to the second user. The program may further index the data entered on the forms using a code-based method.

## Claims

1. 1. A system for facilitating the handling of a transactional dispute comprising:
  2. at least one access terminal having a display and an input means;
  3. a central server having an Internet web site stored thereon, said display capable
  4. of displaying a plurality of dispute handling forms retrieved from said
  5. server and said web site;
  6. a communication channel linking said terminal to said web site and said
  7. server to said web site; and
  8. a scanner coupled to said terminal, said scanner able to transform an
  9. image into computer readable format for transmission across
  10. said communication channel.
2. The system of claim 1 comprising a first access terminal for a dispute initiator and a second access terminal for a dispute responder.
3. The system of claim 1 comprising a form selection for a dispute initiator and a form selection for a dispute responder.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein said dispute initiator is an Issuer and said dispute responder is an Acquirer.
5. The system of claim 3 wherein said form selection for said initiator comprises a Retrieval Request , a First Chargeback and a Final Chargeback; and said form selection for said responder comprises a Fulfillment and a Second Presentment.

6. The system of Claim 2 comprising a third access terminal for administration and a fourth access terminal for finance.

7. A method for handling a dispute between an Issuer and an Acquirer via an Internet connection to which are coupled at least one access terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) accessing an Internet web site from said terminal, said web site linked to a server comprising a plurality of dispute handling forms stored thereon;
- (b) choosing one of said dispute handling forms;
- (c) responding to the requested field information on said form;
- (d) sending said form over said Internet connection to be routed by said server to a disputed party; and
- (e) repeating steps (a)-(d) for both the Issuer and the Acquirer.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising at least one document scanning device and the steps of:

- (a) scanning at said document scanning device at least one supporting document; and
- (b) sending said supporting document along with said form over said Internet connection to be routed by said server to a disputed party.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said scanning comprises one to five supporting documents.

10. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) reviewing a report comprising said form by financial operations; and
- (b) transferring liability in response to said report to at least one of said Issuer from said Acquirer and said Acquirer from said Issuer.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein said accessing step comprises the steps of:
  - (a) requesting a User ID from administrative operations; and
  - (b) receiving said User ID and a password.
12. The method of claim 7 wherein said choosing one of said dispute handling forms comprises choosing from a form selection for said Issuer and a form selection for said Acquirer.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein said form selection for said issuer comprises a Retrieval Request, a First Chargeback and a Final Chargeback; and said form selection for said Acquirer comprises a Fulfillment and a Second Presentment.
14. The method of claim 7 wherein said sending step comprises one of viewing and downloading by said disputed party.
15. A method executed in a network computer system for facilitating handling of transactional disputes, the network computer system having a server and at least one access terminal, the method comprising the steps of :
  - (a) accepting at said server a User ID and password from a first user at a first access terminal;
  - (b) retrieving from said server a set of dispute handling forms which coincide with said User ID;
  - (c) displaying said set of first user forms at said first access terminal;
  - (d) receiving input entered on one of said first user forms at said first access terminal;
  - (e) transmitting within said network said one of said first user forms to a second user in dispute with said first user;
  - (f) notifying said second user at a second access terminal of said one of said first user forms;

15 (g) accepting at said server a User ID and password from said second user at said  
16 second access terminal;

17 (h) retrieving from said server a set of dispute handling forms which coincide with  
18 said second user User ID;

19 (i) displaying said set of second user forms at said second access terminal;

20 (j) receiving input entered on one of said second user forms at said second access  
21 terminal;

22 (k) transmitting within said network said one of said second user forms to said first  
23 user;

24 (l) notifying said first user at said first access terminal of said one of said second  
25 user forms; and

26 (m) repeating steps (a)-(l) until all needed dispute handling forms have been  
27 transmitted.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of :

- (a) retrieving at least one stored file from said server; and
- (b) attaching said file to said one of said forms.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein said first user comprises an Issuer and said second user comprises an Acquirer.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said first user comprises an Issuer and said second user comprises an Acquirer.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said set of Issuer forms comprises a Retrieval Request , a First Chargeback and a Final Chargeback; and said set of Acquirer forms comprises a Fulfillment and a Second Presentment.

1 20. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of :

2 (a) receiving at said second access terminal at least one scanned document in  
3 computer readable format;

4 (b) storing said scanned document on said server; and

5 (c) attaching said scanned document to one of said forms.

1 21. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

2 (a) accepting at said server a User ID and password from a third user at a third  
3 access terminal;

4 (b) retrieving from said server a set of reports which coincide with said third User ID;

5 (c) displaying said set of reports at said third access terminal; and

6 (d) receiving instructions to transfer monetary liability to at least one of said first user  
7 from said second user and said second user from said first user.

22. The method of claim 15 wherein said accepting at said server steps comprise matching  
said User ID and password with a stored database on said server.

1 23. A computer-based method providing an Internet routing system for dispute forms  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 at a first end-user site,  
4 (a) prompting an end-user for a User ID and password;  
5 (b) displaying a set of dispute handling forms in response to  
6 receiving said User ID;  
7 (c) collecting dispute-related data on said forms;  
8 (d) transmitting said dispute-related data on said forms to a central  
9 site for processing;  
10 at said central site,

11 (e) receiving said dispute-related data on said forms;  
12 (f) indexing said forms by said dispute-related data;  
13 (g) transmitting said forms to a second end-user site; and  
14 (h) making said forms available at said second end-user site for  
15 viewing and downloading.

24. The computer-based method of claim 23 wherein said first end-user site comprises an Issuer site and said second end-user site comprises an Acquirer site.
25. The computer-based method of claim 23 wherein said indexing comprises a code-based method.
26. The method of claim 23 wherein said displaying comprises a set of Issuer dispute handling forms in response to receiving said User ID for an Issuer.
27. The method of claim 23 wherein said displaying comprises a set of Acquirer dispute handling forms in response to receiving said User ID for an Acquirer.
28. The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
  - at said second end-user site,
    - (a) prompting a second end-user for a User ID and password;
    - (b) displaying a set of dispute handling forms in response to receiving said second end-user User ID;
    - (c) collecting dispute-related data on said forms;
    - (d) transmitting said dispute-related data on said forms to a said central site for processing;
  - at said central site,

10 (e) receiving said dispute-related data on said forms from said  
11 second end-user site;  
12 (f) transmitting said forms to said first end-user site; and  
13 (g) making said forms available at said first end-user site for  
14 viewing and downloading.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising at said central site the step of indexing said forms by said dispute-related data.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said indexing comprises a code-based method.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein said first end-user site comprises an Issuer site and said second end-user site comprises an Acquirer site.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein said displaying at said first end-user site comprises a set of Issuer dispute handling forms; and said displaying at said second end-user site comprises a set of Acquirer dispute handling forms.

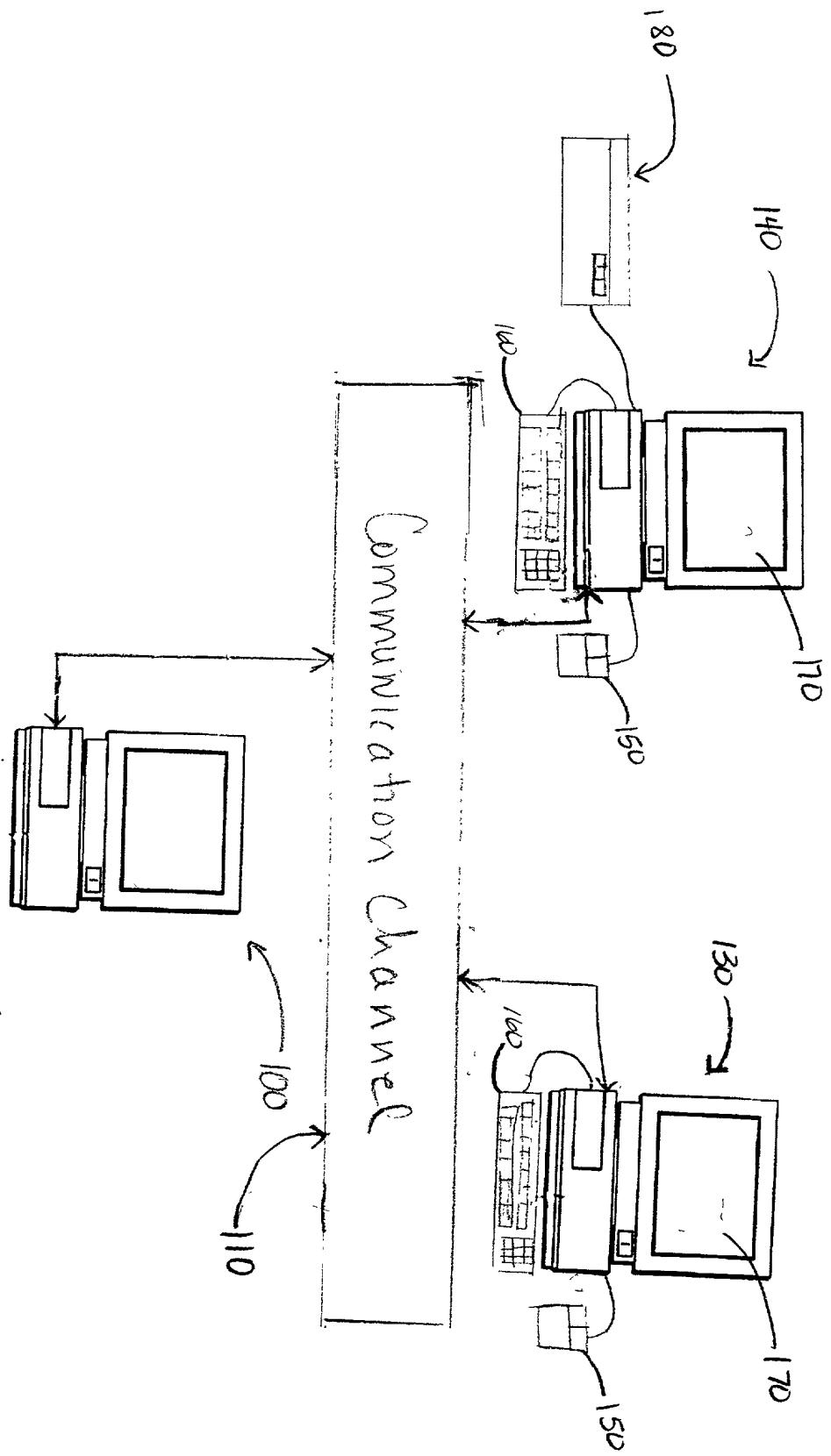
1 33. An Internet-based processing system for gathering and routing data for facilitating the  
2 handling of a credit dispute between credit Issuers and Acquirers, the system comprising:  
3 a central server having Internet capabilities and a computer program stored  
4 thereon, wherein said program comprises a plurality of data entry fields  
5 with respect to said dispute;  
6 at least two end-user terminals having a display device, an input device and  
7 Internet capabilities, one of said end-user terminals for an Issuer and a  
8 second end-user terminal for an Acquirer;

9 an Internet web site coupled via a communication link to said server and  
10 accessible by said end-user terminals, said terminals capable of viewing  
11 said plurality of data entry fields;  
12 an index system which categorizes at least one of said data entry  
13 fields within said central server; and  
14 a document scanning device coupled to at least one of said end-user terminals  
15 for transforming paper images into computer readable format.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein said document scanning device is coupled to said second end-user terminal for an Acquirer.
35. The system of claim 33 wherein said index system comprises a code-based system.
36. The system of claim 33 further comprising a third end-user terminal for adding, modifying and deleting end-users.
37. The system of claim 33 further comprising a third end-user terminal for transferring credit liability between said Issuers and said Acquirers.

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Figure 1



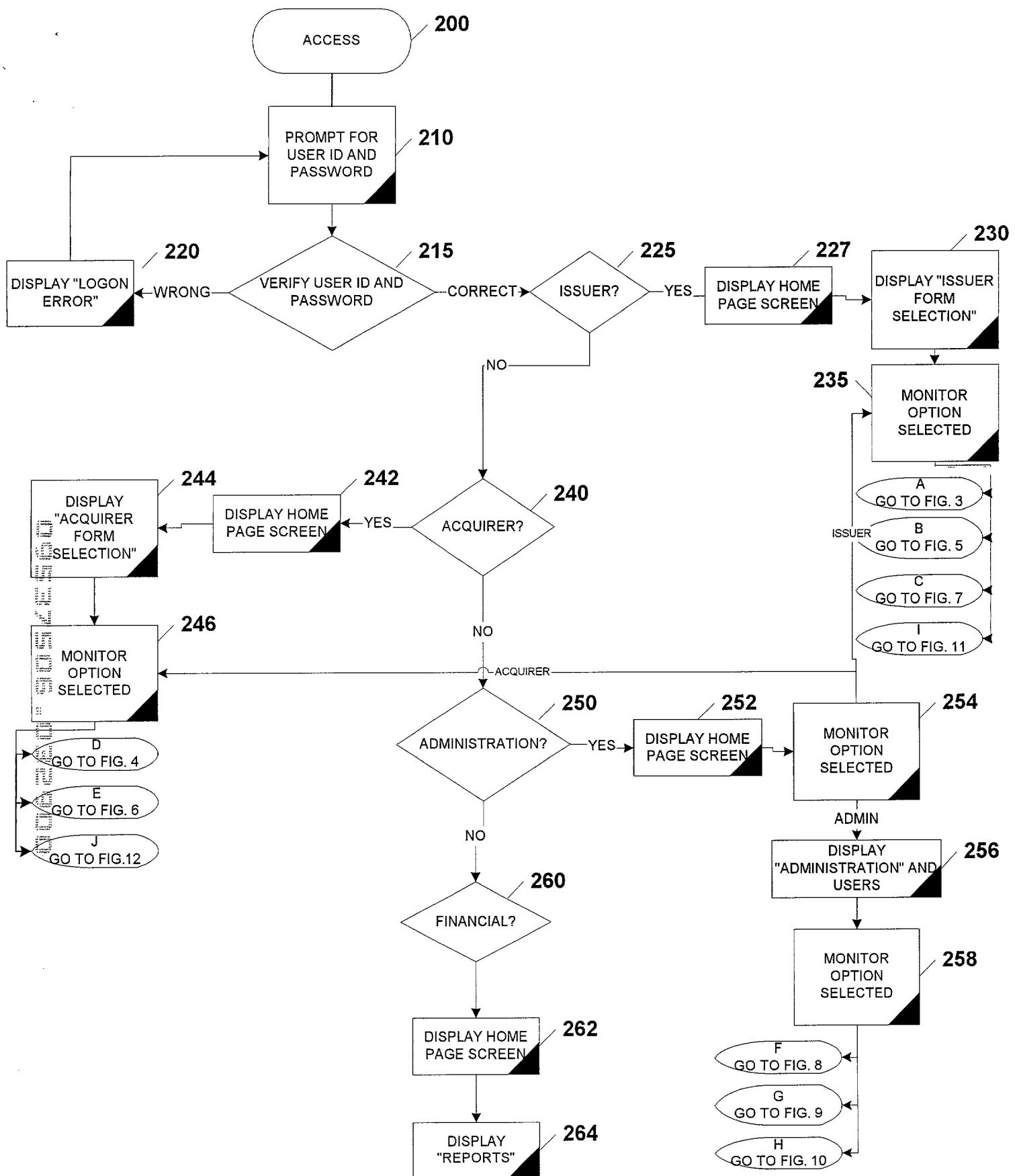


Figure 2

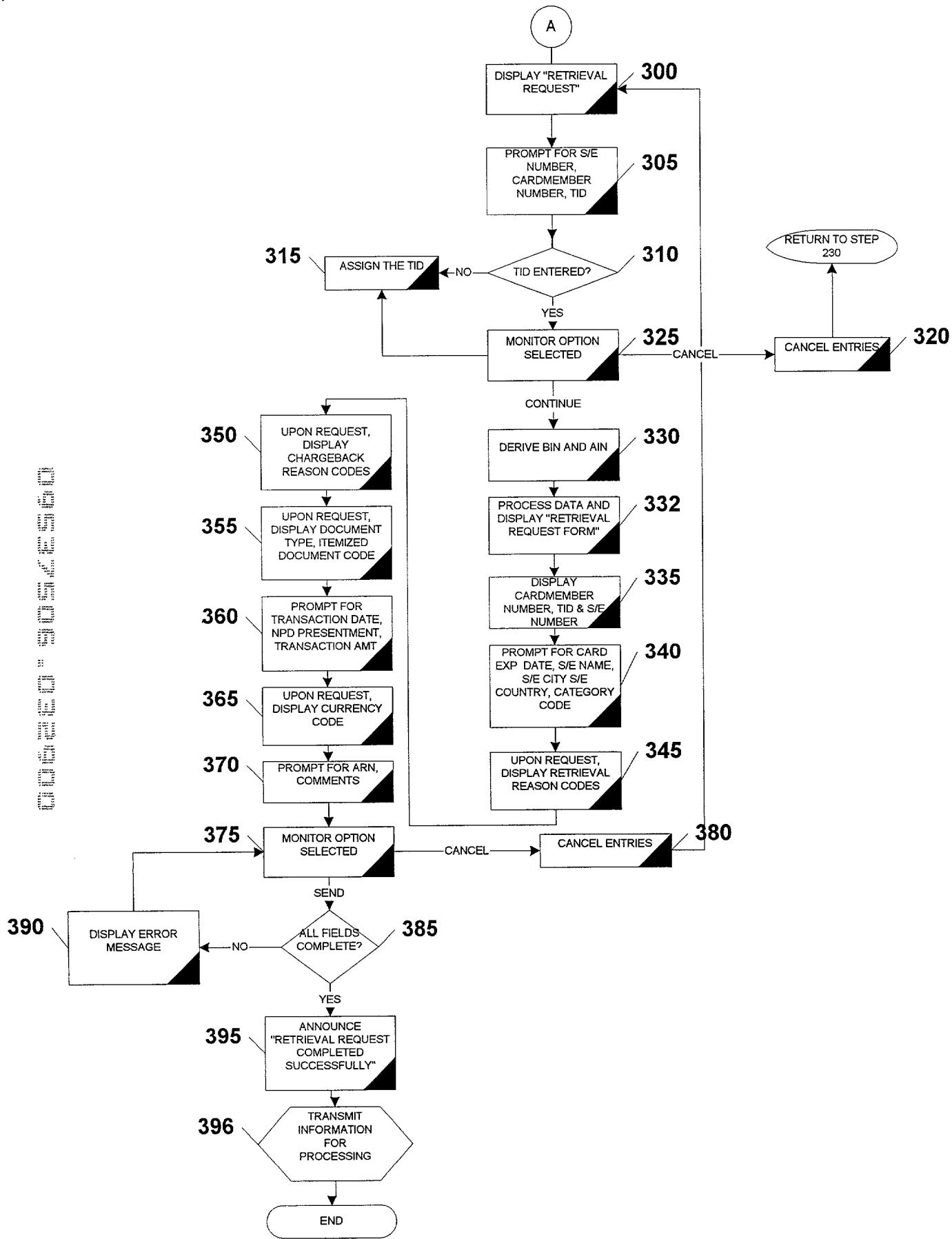


Figure 3

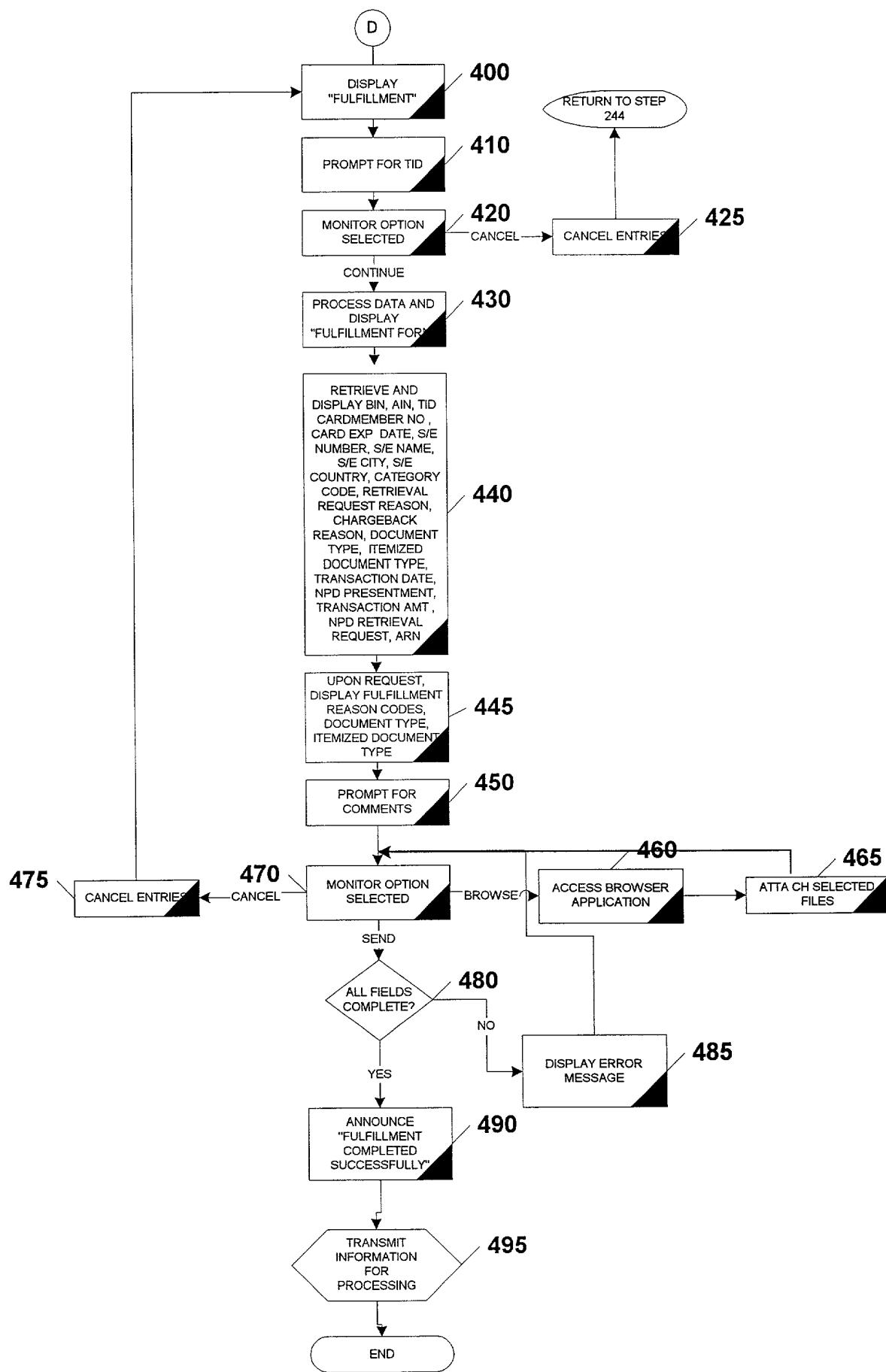


Figure 4

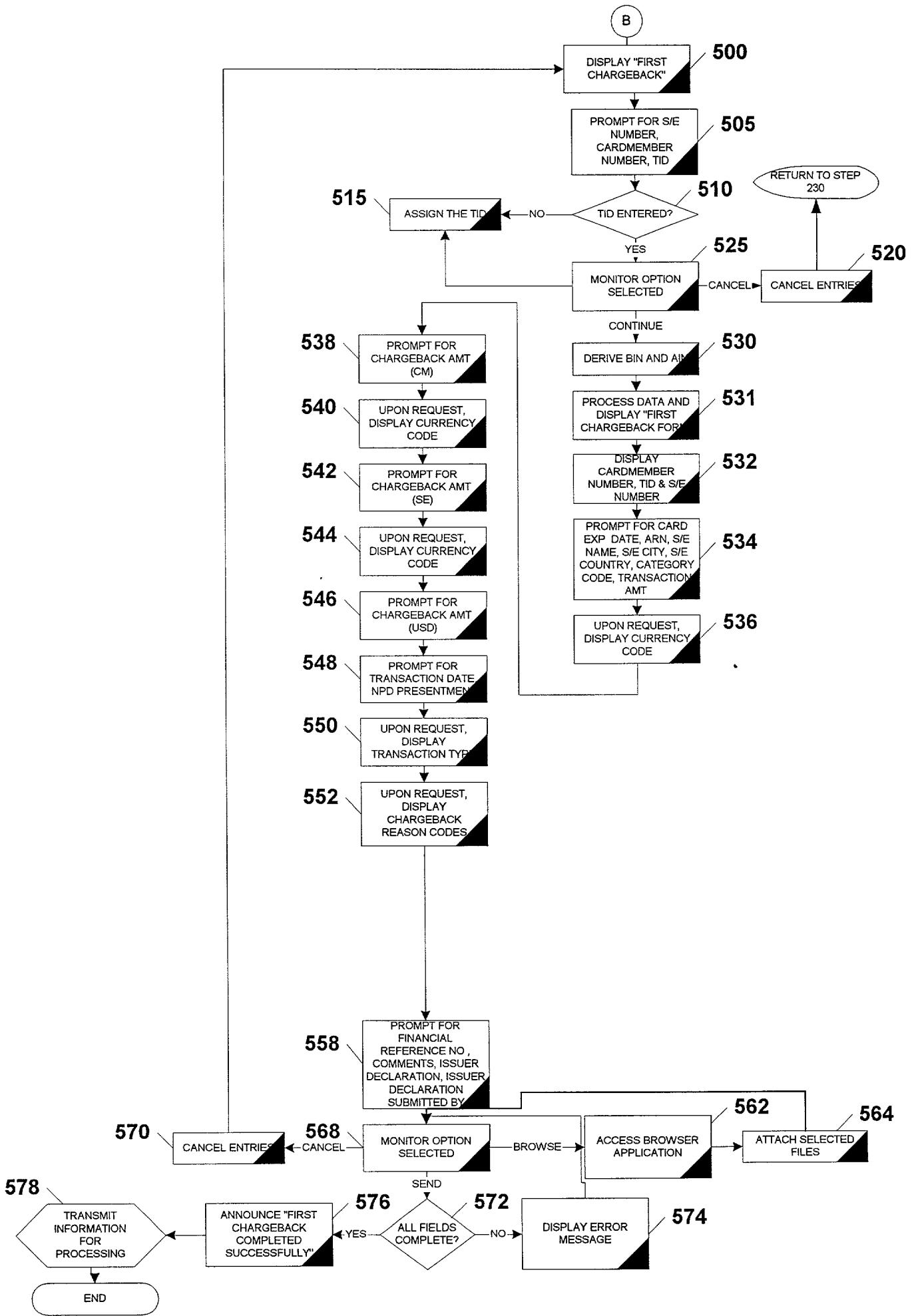


Figure 5

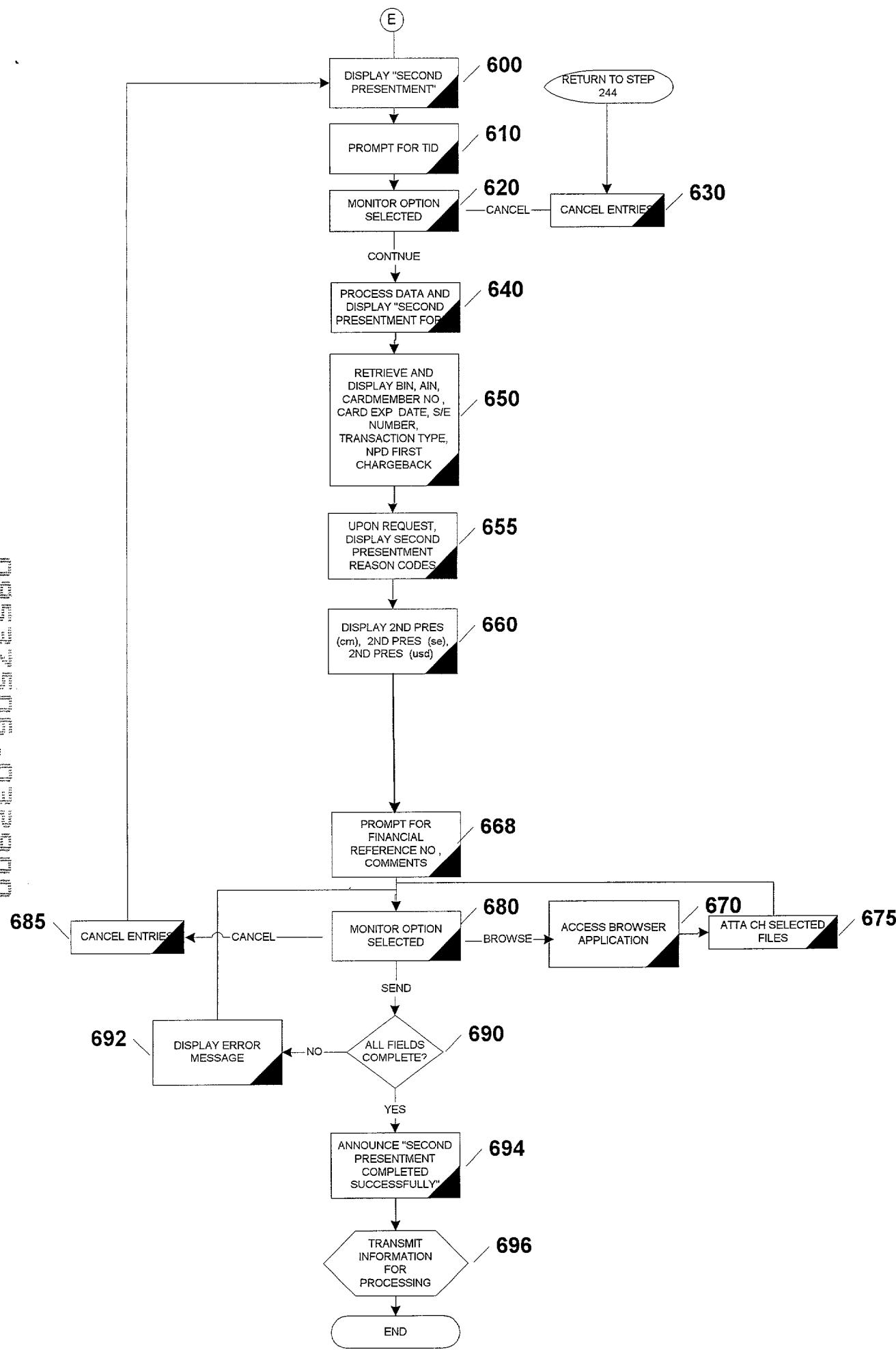


Figure 6

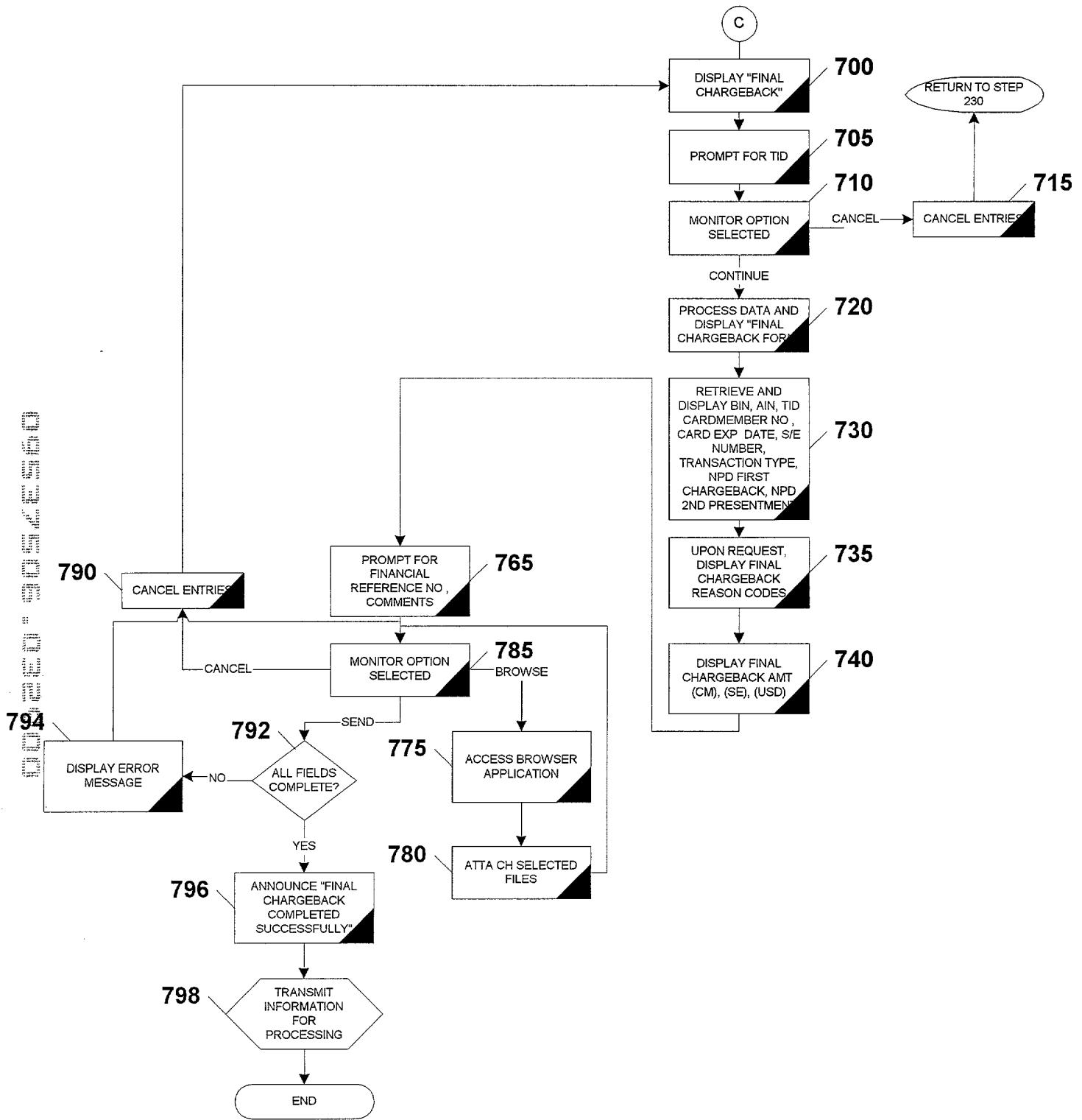
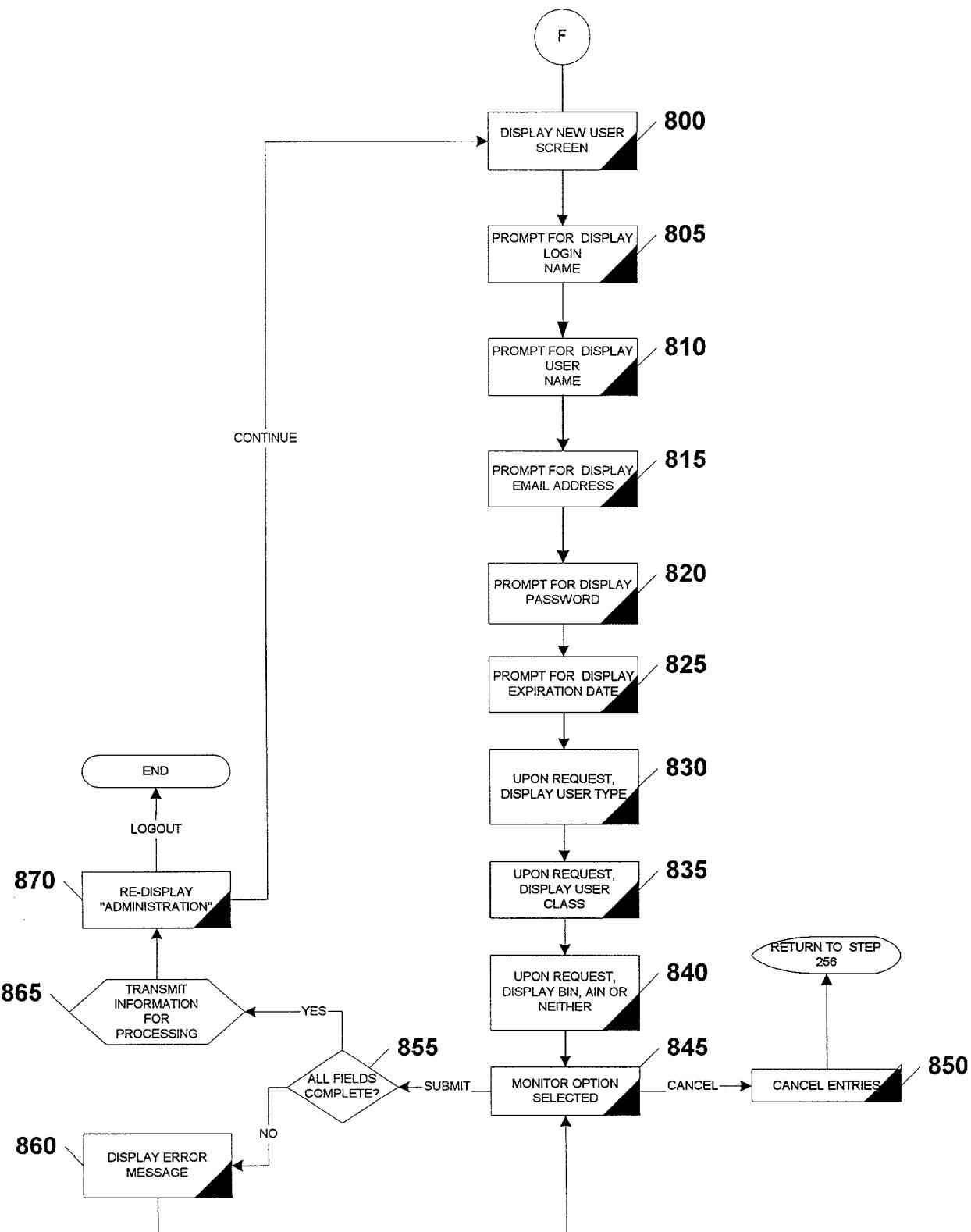


Figure 7



**Figure 8**

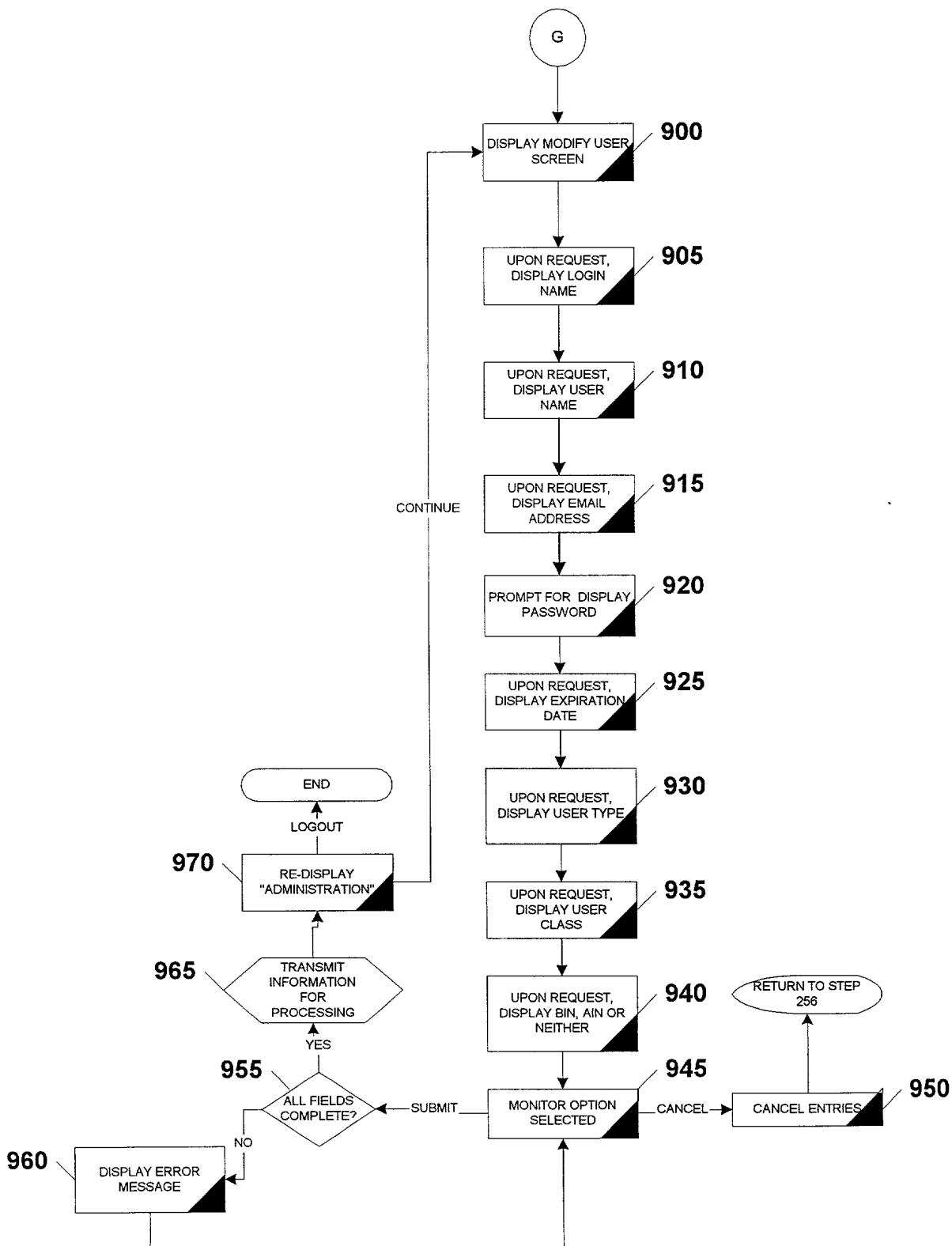


Figure 9

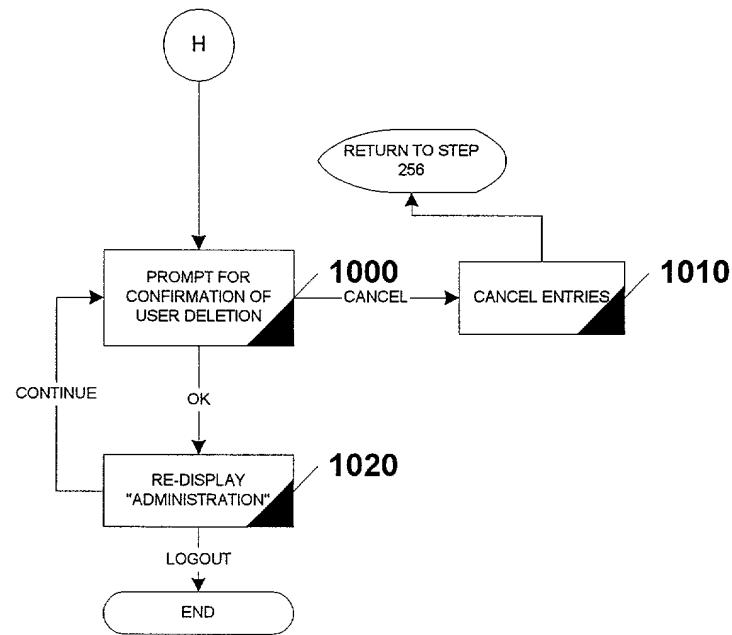


Figure 10

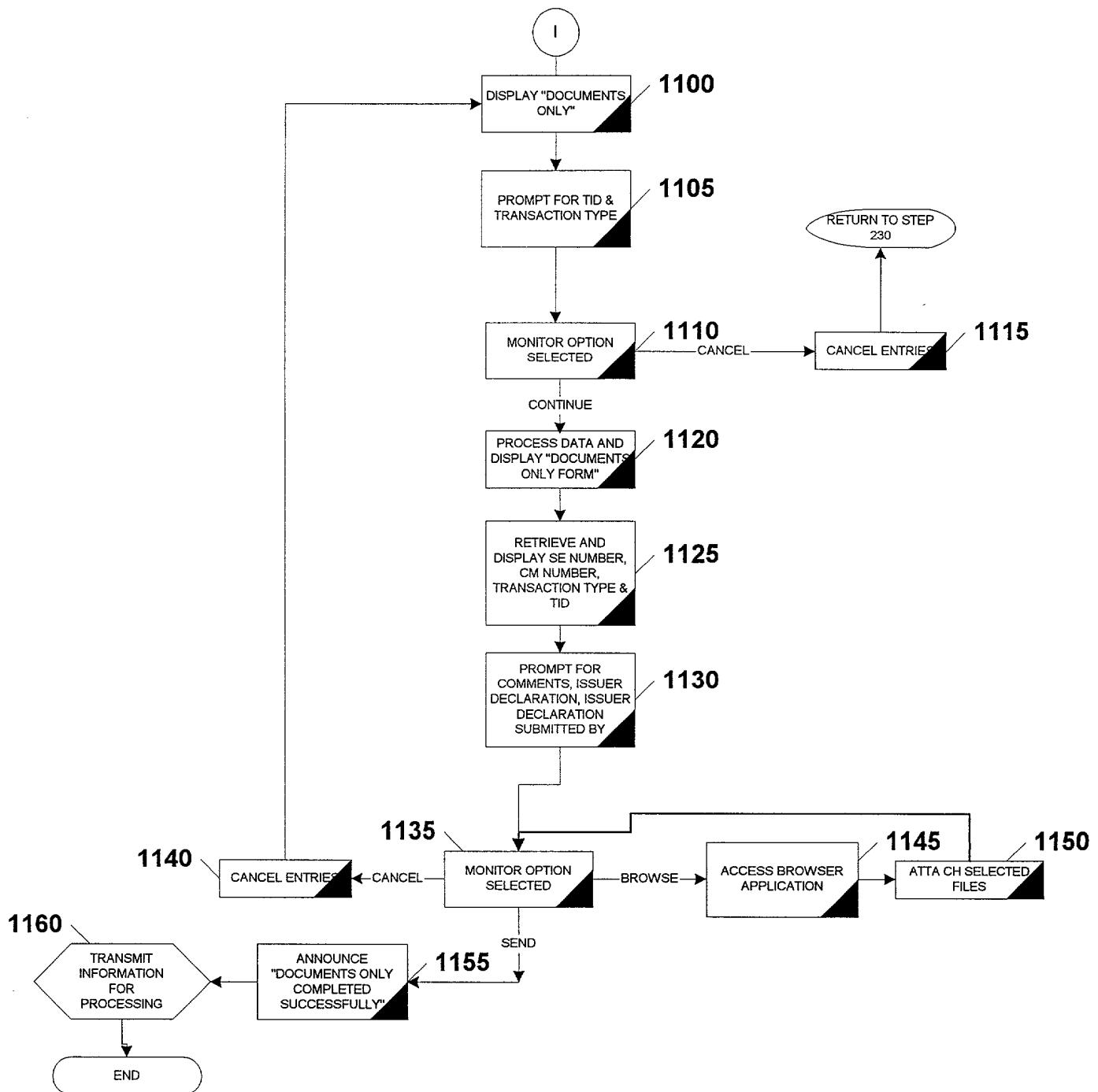
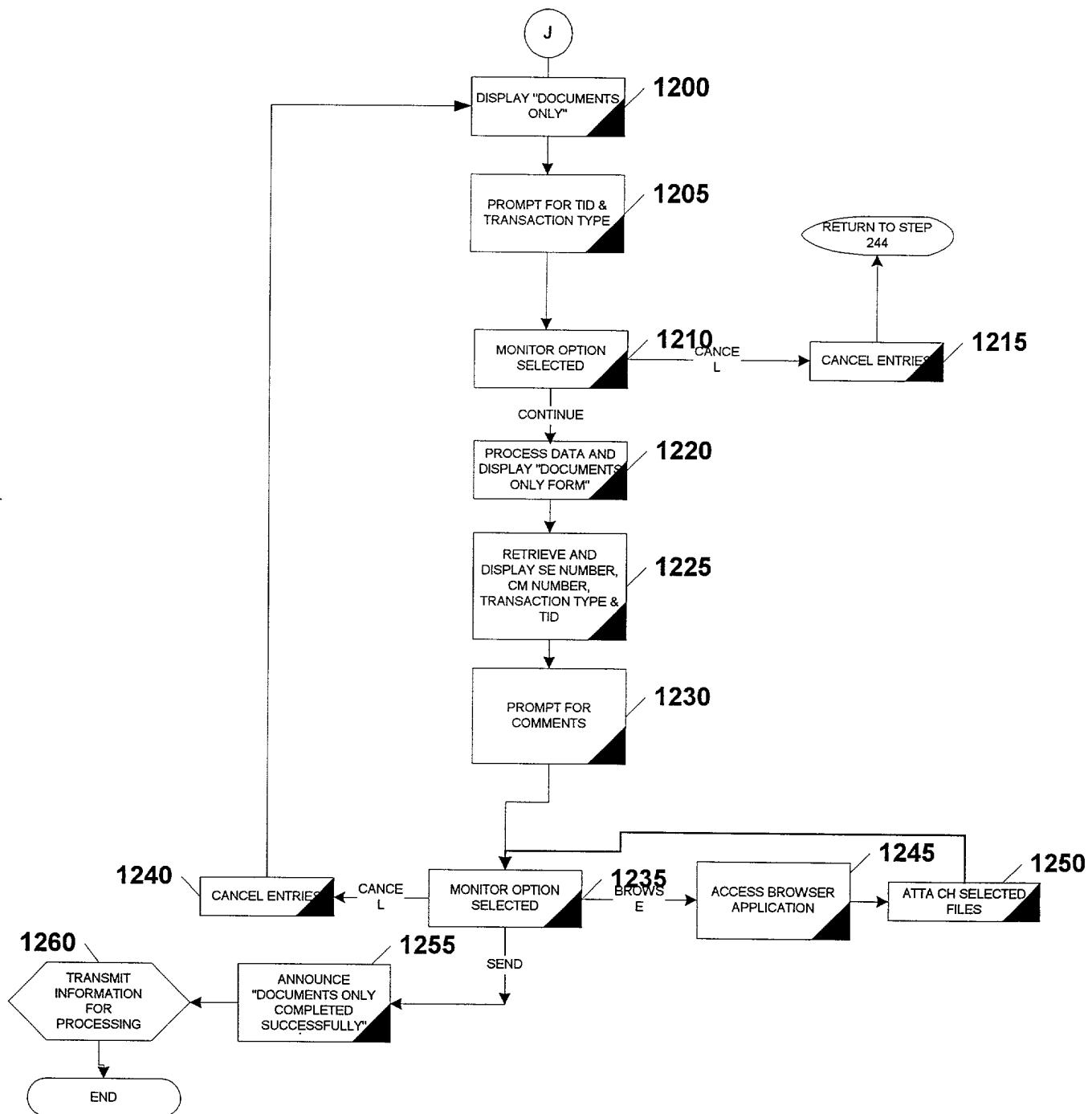


Figure 11



**Figure 12**

Express Mail Label No. EL426613783US

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Docket No.  
10655.9400**Declaration For Patent Application****English Language Declaration**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING THE HANDLING OF A DISPUTE**

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

**Prior Foreign Application(s)****Priority Not Claimed**

None

(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

None

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, CFR Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

None

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

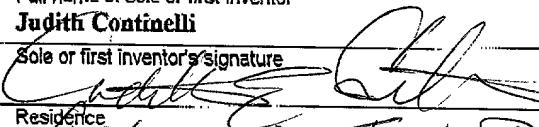
(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

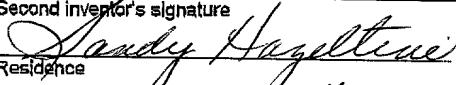
(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Third inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
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Full name of fourth inventor, if any	
Fourth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	